



Rock Climbing Guide Costa Blanca Alcalali

A free climbing guide provided by Rock-Topos

www.rock-topos.com

www.freewebs.com/costablancarock

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Information:

English

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Location:

Situación:



Información:

Español

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► Richard Sanderson on the 2nd
accent of **Lilac Wine** (6a).
Photographer: Pete Eccles

English

» This publication is a rock climbing guide to the Alcalali crag in the Costa Blanca region of Spain. This roadside cliff is situated on the outskirts of the village of Alcalali heading towards the village of Orba.

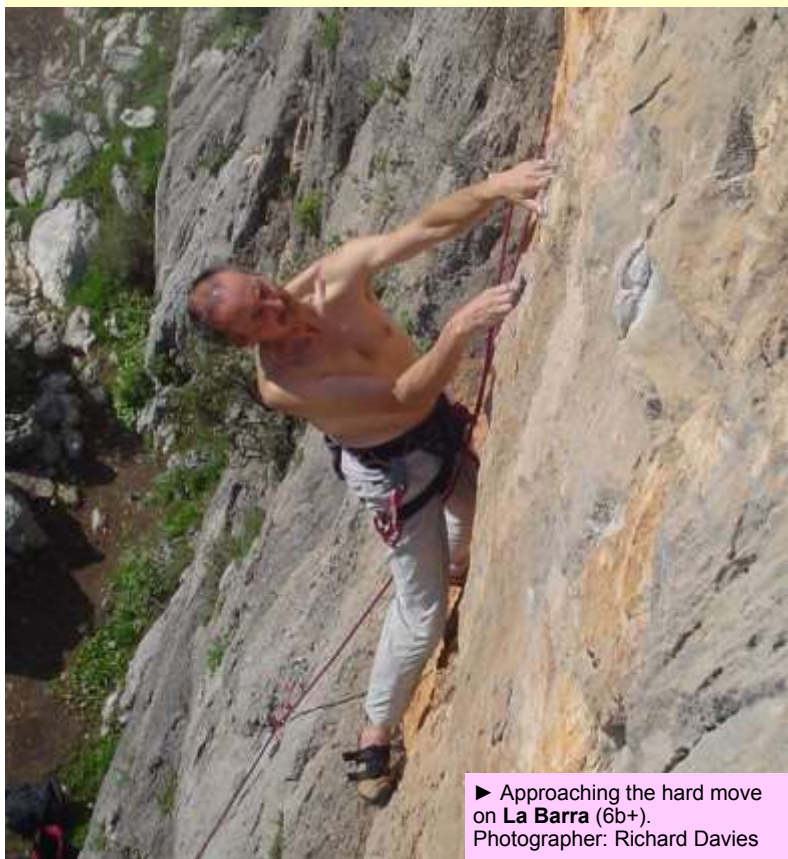
The cliff is situated very close to the villas on the outskirts of Alcalali.

Please observe a quite and respectful approach to the residents when climbing here.

The routes on the right side of the cliff have been cordoned off by a fence and we advise climbers to avoid these.

The cliff currently provides over 40 routes on excellent rock and offers many classic high quality routes throughout the grades, comparable with the best in the Costa Blanca region. Further new routes are being added all the time and this guide will be updated to reflect these.

The cliff forms a bay with wings on either side. The continuation of the crag to the left leads to its sister crag Murla. Most of the developments are currently situated on the left and right sides of the central bay, although the middle section is now receiving more attention. The left side is typically slabby or vertical walls on perfect smooth pocketed limestone. The central and right sides are steeper with sharper rock – but again with many good pockets and tufas. «



► Approaching the hard move on **La Barra** (6b+).

Photographer: Richard Davies

GENERAL APPROACH

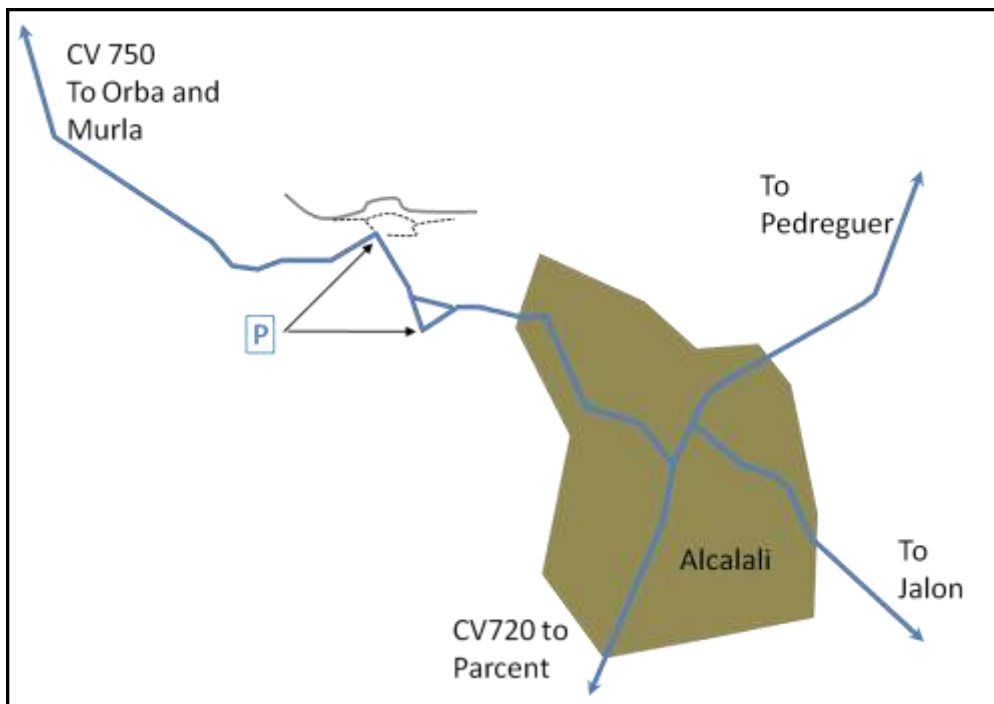
» Travel north from Calpe along the N332 towards Benisa and take the turning to Jalon (Xalon). From Jalon take the by-pass to Alcalali. At the T-junction turn left and immediately take the right turning sign posted to Orba. The crag is 2 km further along just after leaving the village, above the sharp bend and is easily visible. There is sufficient parking for 2 or 3 cars on the bend off of the road but other cars can be left in the drainage gutter at the side of the road. When this is full park carefully on the side of the road. Walk up the paths from the corner to either the left or right to reach the base of the routes. «

ASPECT AND CLIMATE

» Alcalali faces south, it is sheltered from the wind and gets all the sun going. As a result it is too hot in the summer months to climb here until the evening. In the cooler months it is a quite pleasant place to climb, particularly if the sun is in. The right-hand side is steep enough to avoid light rain, but the pockets may start seeping quickly. «

GEAR

» All the routes are well protected by 10mm bolts and finish at good belays. Most belays now have lower offs in place to avoid threading the rope. Generally a 60m rope is sufficient, although a few routes do need 70 meters. «



Español

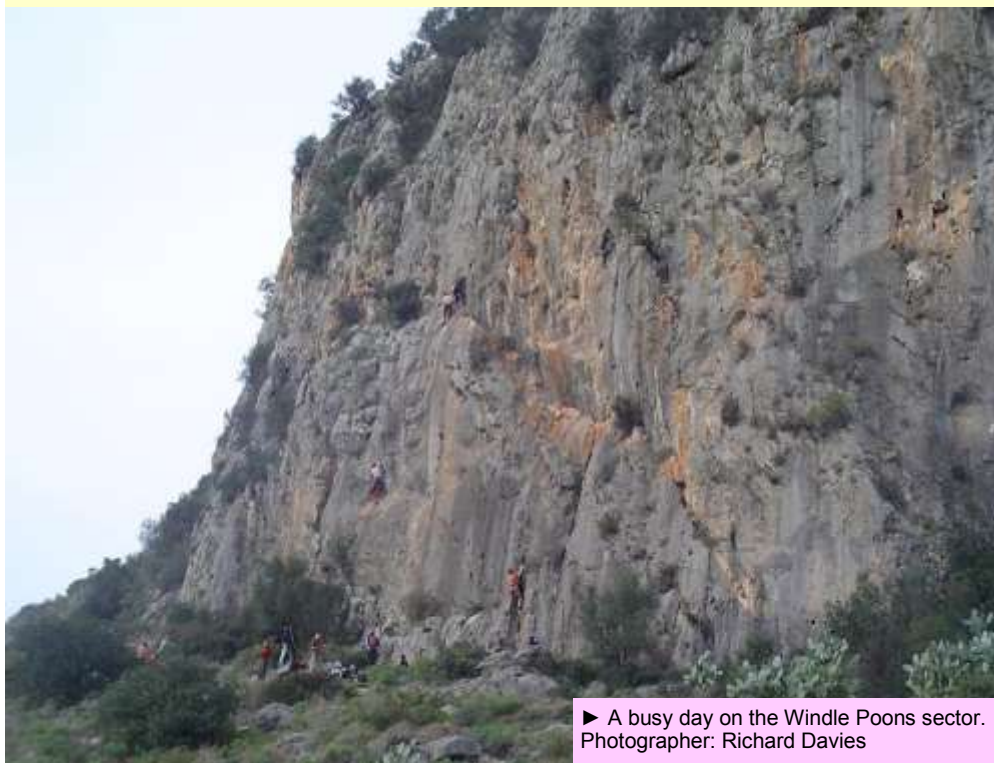
» Esta publicación es un guía de escalada hacia la pared de Alcalali en la región española en la Costa Blanca.

Este pared esta situada en las afueras de la villa de Alcalali, te dirige a la villa de Orba.

Este pedrusco esta situado muy cerca de las villas de Alcalali. Por favor tenga cuidado y respete la zona cuando se acerque a escalar. Lo que haga se tendrá en cuenta para poder acceder de nuevo.

El pedrusco esta formado de 30 rutas con una excelente piedra y unas buenas rutas, con diferentes grados, comparable con lo mejor de costa Blanca. Mas adelante se anidaran nuevas rutas y se nombraran en esta guía ya que la mantendremos al día.

El pedrusco forma una bahía con alas a cada lado. La continuación del peñasco en la parte izquierda se podría decir que es la hermana del peñasco Murla. La mayoría de las formas de hacerlo son por la parte izquierda y derecha de la bahía central, aunque la parte del medio esta recibiendo mas atención. La parte de la izquierda es placa o paredes verticales con una piedra perfectamente pulida y suave. La parte central y derecha es una piedra mas áspera y afilada pero una vez mas con muy buenos hoyos y tufas. «



► A busy day on the Windle Poons sector.
Photographer: Richard Davies

DIRECCIÓN—COMO LLEGAR

» Viajando por el norte de Calpe, por la N332 iendo para Benissa, toma la que gira a Jalon. Desde Jalon, toma el by-pass a Alcalali. En el cruce-T gira a la izquierda inmediatamente y toma la siguiente a la derecha donde indica Orba. El peñasco esta a 2 Km mas adelante justo al salir de la villa, esta muy visible. En el recodo de la carretera hay suficiente aparcamiento para 2-3 coches, a la izquierda de la carretera donde el canalón de desagüe puede haber sitio para otros coches.

Cuando el coche esta completamente aparcado, anda por el camino y podrás tomar izquierda derecha para llegar la parte central de las rutas. «

CLIMA

» Alcalali da al sur, esta protegido del viento y le da todo el sol. Eso hace que sea muy caluroso en los meses de verano, para escalar aquí. En los meses mas frescos es muy buen sitio para escalar. La parte derecha se moja fácilmente los días de lluvia y por consecuente los hoyos se humedecen rápidamente. «

MATERIAL

» Todas las rutas están protegidas por 10mm parabolts y terminadas en descuelgue buenos. Las rutas normalmente menos de 60 metros por que son muy largas y 70 metros de cuerda es esencial. «



◀ An unknown English climber repeating **Hogfather** (5+) a few minutes after the first ascent. Photographer: Richard Davies

Sector 1: Very Far Left

» This is a newly developed section. Approach by walking from the parking past Sector Windle Poons and scramble up rocks to gain a platform with a prominent tree. Start behind this tree 45 metres left of Tasha Mitica. «



☐ **1. Bull-Tucker Trial** 5

21m. Start behind the tree. Climb to a ledge on the left and up and left to the 1st bolt . Up grooves and walls to the top.

F.A. Pete Eccles 16th January 2010

☐ **2. Synnove** 5

21m. Climb direct to the first bolt. The two steeper sections both succumb to the use of good side holds. Interesting climbing throughout.

F.A. Pete Eccles, Pat Booth December 2009

☐ **3. Lilac Wine** 6a

22m. Start 2m right of Synnove climb direct to the first bolt and up to a small orange cave, left up a short groove and back right to a good foothold. Up to a shared lower off on the left.

F.A. Pete Eccles September 2010

☐ **4. Recessed Slab & Crack** 6a

23m. Climb the recessed slab 2m right of Lilac Wine to gain the wall above and up the foot of a steep deep crack. Up this till a high pocket on the left enables good holds on the right to be reached. Up the slab above to the lower off

F.A. Pete Eccles September 2010


☐ **5. Hola Patricia** **5+**

22m. Start at a shallow left facing corner behind a tree 2m right. Up the corner to easy ground to below a steep wall. A short crack on the left gains good holds on the steep wall leading to a corner crack.
F.A. Pete Eccles June 2010.

☐ **6. Gilyeat's Hammer** **5**

22m. The route follows a discontinuous rib to the right. Start up a short crack The lower off is shared with the next route
F.A. Pete Eccles 21st January 2010

☐ **7. Mono- Slabic** **6a**

22m. Start 3m right of Gillyeat's Hammer Climb easily to the foot of the fine slab high on the face. Up the centre of this with interest.
F.A. Pete Eccles 19th January 2010

☐ **8. Hedgehog** **5**

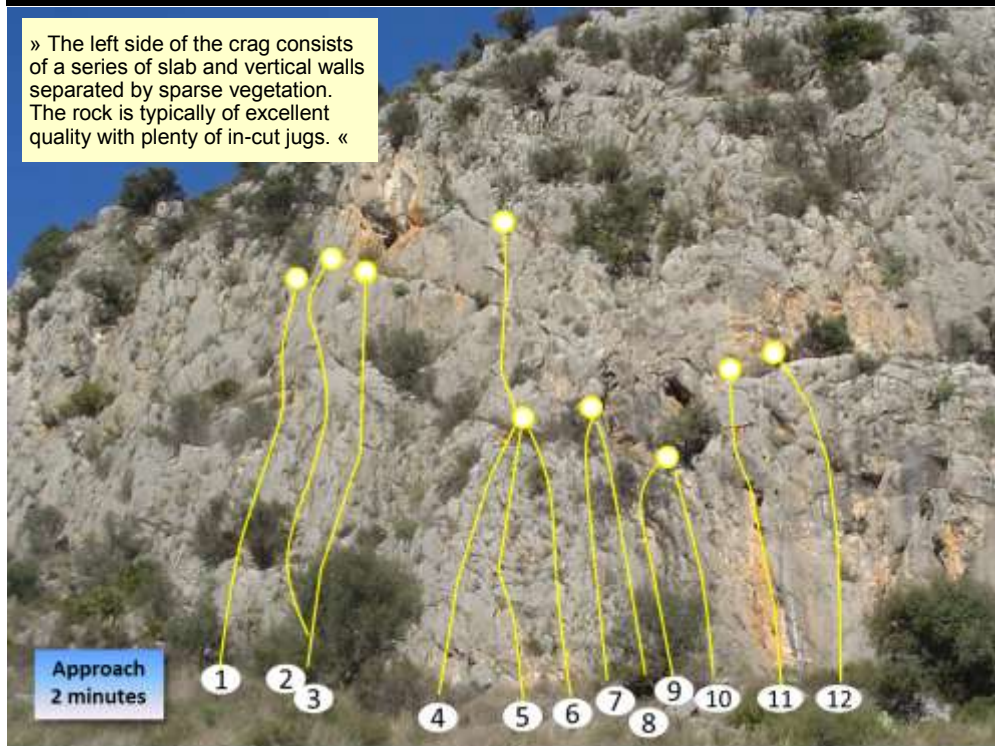
35m. Start 4m left of Hoggswatch below a sawn tree. Up to a ledge right of the sawn tree From the 4th bolt make a tricky move up and right to gain a ledge move back left up cracked slabs to the top. Take care when lowering, 60m rope required.
F.A. Pete Eccles, 25 January 2010



Natasha Davies making the first ascent of **Tasha Mitica** (4).
Photographer: Alan Austin ►

Sector 2: Tasha Mitica

» The left side of the crag consists of a series of slab and vertical walls separated by sparse vegetation. The rock is typically of excellent quality with plenty of in-cut jugs. «


☐ **1. Hogswatch**.....

5+

30m. Start below some trees and climb a slab to these. Pull up the steeper wall to gain a groove. Pull over the roof and continue up the smooth wall to a belay.

F.A. Richard Davies, 27th December 2008

☐ **2. Hogfather**

5+

28m. Climb up into the scoop and exit left next to the tree. Climb a shallow flaky groove over an overlap and then step right onto the smooth wall. An initial tricky pull leads to easy climbing to the belay.

F.A. Richard Davies, 17th December 2007

☐ **3. Tasha Mitica**

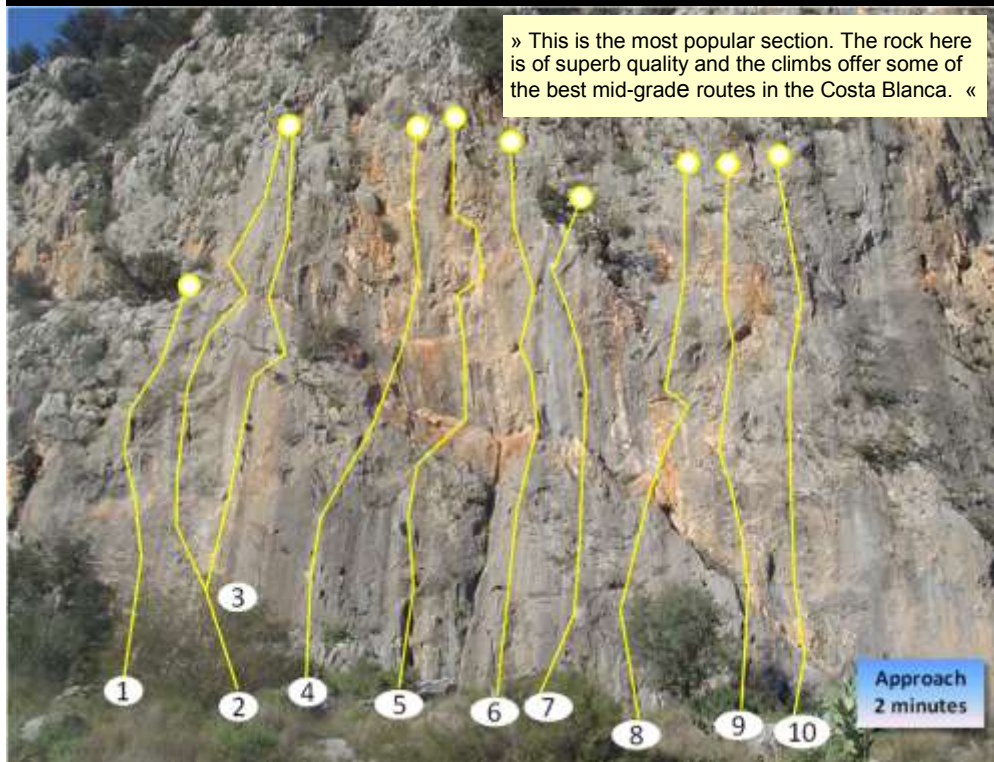
4+

20m. Climb easily up into a scoop. Climb the wall above with increasing difficulty trending slightly leftwards. Pull right slightly and go up the rib to the belay below the cave.

F.A. Natasha Davies, 6th January 2006

- ☐ **4. Primero** **3+**
14m. A short route on the left of the slabby section. Move right to the middle belay of Ainee or even continue to the higher belay.
F.A. Pete Eccles & Pat Booth July 2001 (Climbed initially on traditional gear, bolted by AN Other 2 days later.)
- ☐ **5. Ainee** **4+**
26m. The right-hand line up the slabby wall eases after an awkward start. It can be split at half height, or climbed as a single pitch.
F.A.
- ☐ **6. (Beginners Rib)** **4+**
14m. A short route to the right until forced left to the first belay of Ainee.
F.A. 2007
- ☐ **7. Spare Rib** **4+**
16m. Start 3m right of Beginners Rib. Neat footwork and good hidden holds overcome the steep start. Keep left till a move right gain the shared lower off.
F.A. Pete Eccles December 2010
- ☐ **8. Ribeye** **4+**
15m. Climb the rib 5m right or Spare Rib. From the tree stump gain the rib with difficulty; follow this to a step left at half height.
F.A. Pete Eccles & Pat Booth October 2010
- ☐ **9. Cornered** **4+**
15m. Bridge up the corner to the left of the bolts to the bulge, pull out right on good holds.
F.A. Pete Eccles December 2010
- ☐ **10. Deep Pockets** **5**
16m. Climb the wall 2m right of the corner moving left to the lower off.
F.A. Pete Eccles December 2010
- ☐ **11. Stohlwitter** **6a**
14m Climb up the red groove to the bulge. Take this direct or improvise out right.
F.A.
- ☐ **12. Optas** **6a+**
15m. Climb the wall right of Stohlwitter with a tricky bulge at the top.
F.A.

Sector 3: Windle Poons Area


☐ **1. Yorkshire Lads**

6b

18m. Climb the slab to reach the left most tufa. Gaining the jug on top of this is the crux. The easy slab follows. Well worth doing.

F.A. Richard Davies – 20th March 2005

☐ **2. Windle Poons**

6c+

26m. A very good route. Climb to the obvious tufa in the middle of the wall. Pass this and make technical moves up the wall to a rest at half height. Climb the headwall above with one hard move passing the shallow groove.

F.A. Richard Davies – 1st January 2005

☐ **3. Elendigliches**

6a+

26m. The series of pockets up the right side of the wall. Steep moves starting the upper wall are soon followed by easy climbing to the belay. A 25m rope is just sufficient to get down.

F.A.

☐ **4. No Tocar Los Bloques**
6c+

25m. Start below some holes in the grey wall. Climb to these and cross easy ground to an obvious double tufa. Pull onto the wall above this and climb the shallow groove trying to avoid the blocks to the left. Sharp rock.

F.A. Alan Austin, Graham Rawcliffe 5th January 2007


☐ **5. Diferente Partes**
6c

25m. Climb the easy slab to the obvious tufa. Make a tough pull to excellent holds at it's top and climb the steeper wall above on again excellent holds. Low in the grade, never hard but always with interest and includes a slab, pockets, tufa and a mantle.

F.A. Richard Davies – 2nd April 2005


☐ **6. Akram the Terrible**
6c+

24m. Start right of the crack and climb the thin slab to the break. Pull up to a good pocket and make further long reaches until established in the middle of the wall. Pull around a bulge to reach the belay. Fantastic moves on perfect rock.

F.A. Richard Davies, Alan Austin – 23rd December 2005


☐ **7. Corta y Dulce**
6b

24m. Climbs the rock wall to finish between the two trees high up the face. Take the slab to below the upper wall. Go up this on good holds to a sloping ledge. Continue direct seems more sensible and is easier, or move left up past a rock scar to the final belay. A good route.

F.A. Alan Austin, Graham Rawcliffe – 4th January 2007


☐ **8. La Barra**
6b+

24m. Climb the slab to the right to gain the wall. Pull up the orange wall (crux) looking for a small ear of rock and climb more excellent rock to the belay. It's easier to move right on the crux unless you're tall or strong.

F.A. Alan Austin – 23rd April 2006


☐ **9. Esolero**
6b

24m. Start off a boulder and climb to the obvious tufa passing an old bolt. Pull through the bulge with difficulty and continue up the wall with interest which steepens towards the belay.

F.A. Richard Davies, 4th January 2007

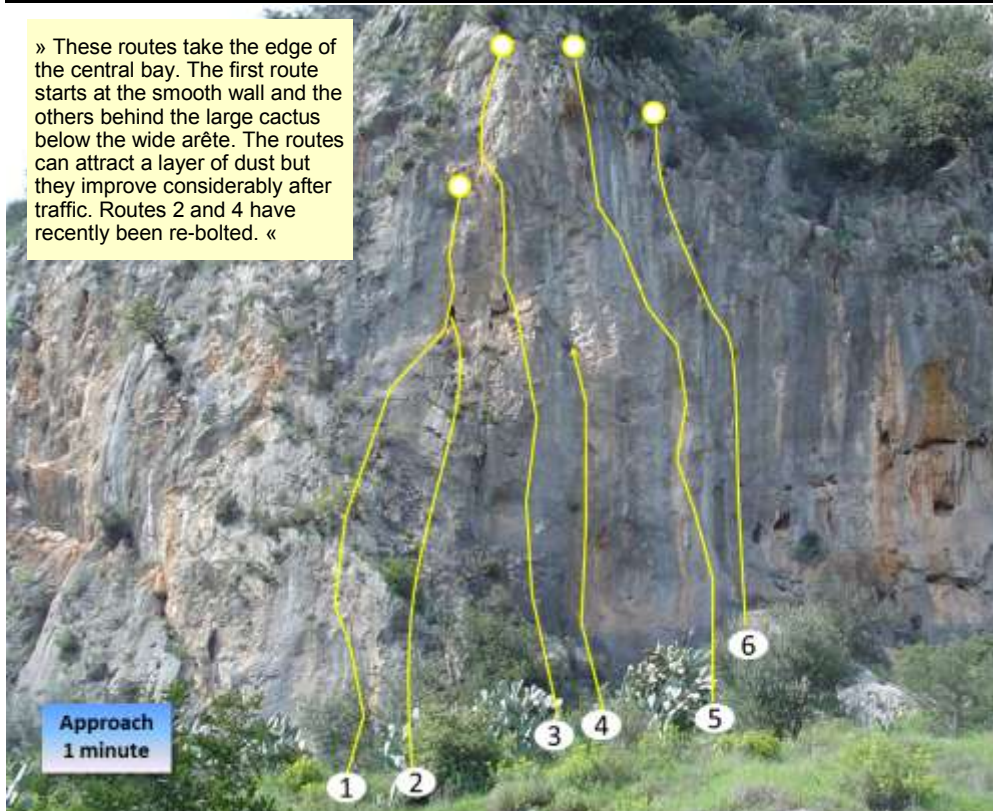

☐ **10. De Tomberelo**
6b

24m. Start off another boulder and climb to the right of the tufa. Pull up on good holds and follow excellent rock up the wall to a very large tufa. Pass this and continue to the belay.

F.A. Richard Davies, Graham Rawcliffe 5th January 2007

Sector 4: Central Bay Area

» These routes take the edge of the central bay. The first route starts at the smooth wall and the others behind the large cactus below the wide arête. The routes can attract a layer of dust but they improve considerably after traffic. Routes 2 and 4 have recently been re-bolted. «



This section is described from left to right.

☐ **1. 40 Thieves**.....

6c+

25m. Start at the smooth wall. Climb up the centre to clip the first two bolts (direct here is 7b+), step down and use the two pockets to climb the right edge of the wall, moving left into the centre. Pull over the bulge and go up the slab to the right of the bush. Pull up the middle of the steep wall.

F.A. Richard Davies, Alan Austin 23rd April 2006

☐ **2. Cervell de Gel**.....

6c

25m. Climb the easy slab (grade 5+) to join 40 Thieves at the hole. Finish up this. A very unbalanced route.

☐ **3. (Cactus Climb)**.....

6c

30m. Start left of the cactus. Climb boldly up the slab which steepens into a wall. A couple of hard moves lead into the groove to the left. Continue with interest in a exposed position to the belay.

► Neil Foster entering the steep upper groove on **Heaven Can't Wait** (7b+).
Photographer: Alan Austin.



☐ **4. Stolen Fruit.....**

7a+

30m. The line of bolts up the middle of the wall leading to a steep finale on the upper bulge.

☐ **5. Heaven Can't Wait**

7b+

30m. Start behind the cactus and climb boldly up the rib. Pull up a shallow groove and make hard committing moves into the upper slanting groove using a hidden hold. The easier option is to climb the wall out left of the groove. Re-bolted—the route can be dirty if not climbed for a while, so it's best climbed after somebody has chalked all the holds.

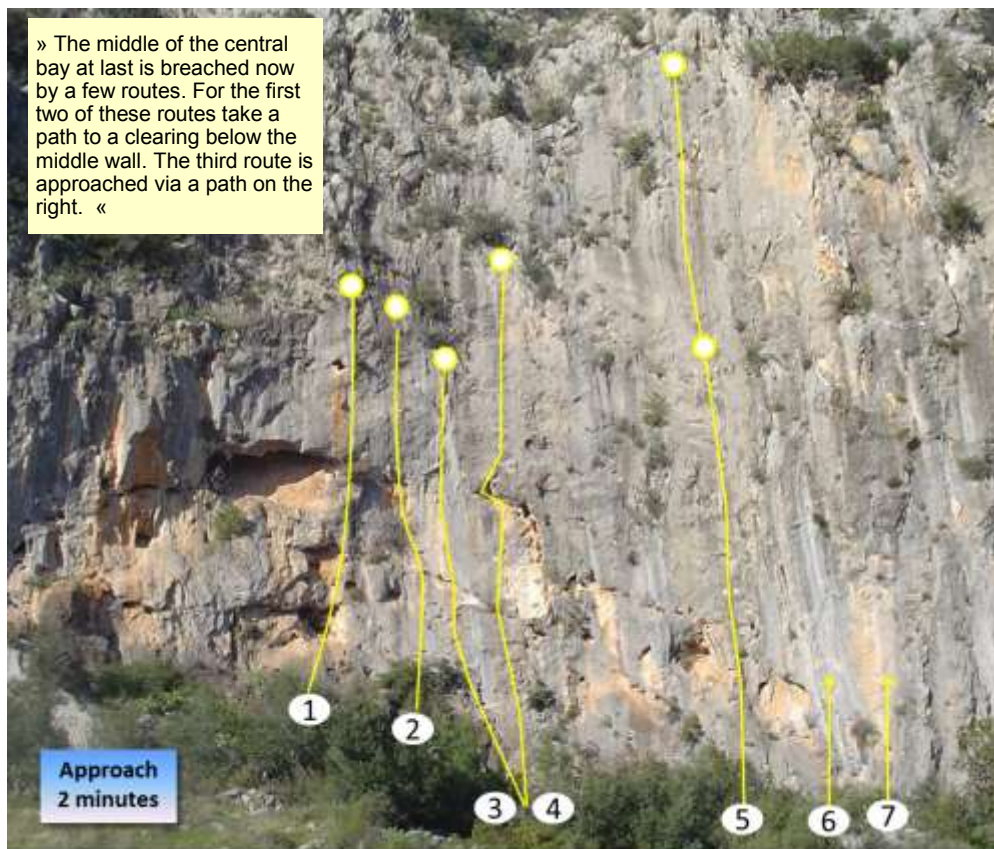
FA. Rich Mayfield 2004

☐ **6. Unknown**

7a+

30m. Start a little more than 1 metre right of Heaven Can't Wait. climb up steep rock on good holds until a large hole leads to diagonal moves left up to a lower-off just right of the 'Heaven Can't Wait' niche.

» The middle of the central bay at last is breached now by a few routes. For the first two of these routes take a path to a clearing below the middle wall. The third route is approached via a path on the right. «



☐ **1. Matrix**.....

6b

25m. Climb the short wall to a slab then follow the tufa past a hole, to a groove and a final hole. The final hole has a nest in it.

☐ **2. Rosa Parks**.....

6c

25m. Starts below the right hand end of an obvious large horizontal slot forming an overhang. Climb up through 2 small roofs, using a drilled pocket at the second roof. Move left to a rest and then pull through the main roof and finish up a tufa. A bit loose in the lower section but should clean up.

☐ **2. Busaba**.....

7a

25m. Climb the slab leftwards to some holes pull up and gain some good tufa holds. Pull up the steeper tufa to gain better holds at it's top.

F.A. Alan Austin—5th January 2006

▼ The central line of **Sudoku** (6c+) is the longest pitch on the crag at 35m. Heidi Willener in the middle wall. Photographer: Alan Austin



► Heidi Willener starting the steeper section of **Busaba** (7a) for an early repeat of this climb. Photographer: Alan Austin.



☐ **3. Sudoku**.....

6c+



35m. A long good quality route. Climb the slab and continue up the pocketed wall to a small roof. Pull round this and continue, climbing first right and then leftwards up the slab, to a belay below a bush. F.A. Richard Davies, Alan Austin—5th January 2006.

☐ **4. (Multi-Route)**.....

6c

1. 25m. 6c The right-hand side of the bay has currently only a single route running up the middle. The rock in lower part of pitch one is not as good as the other parts of the crag. Lower off here or continue up the second pitch

2. 15m. 6b Continue up the steep wall above to a belay close to the top of the crag. This pitch on good rock makes the route worth while.

F.A.

☐ **5. Alegría de vivir**

25m. .

F.A.

6b



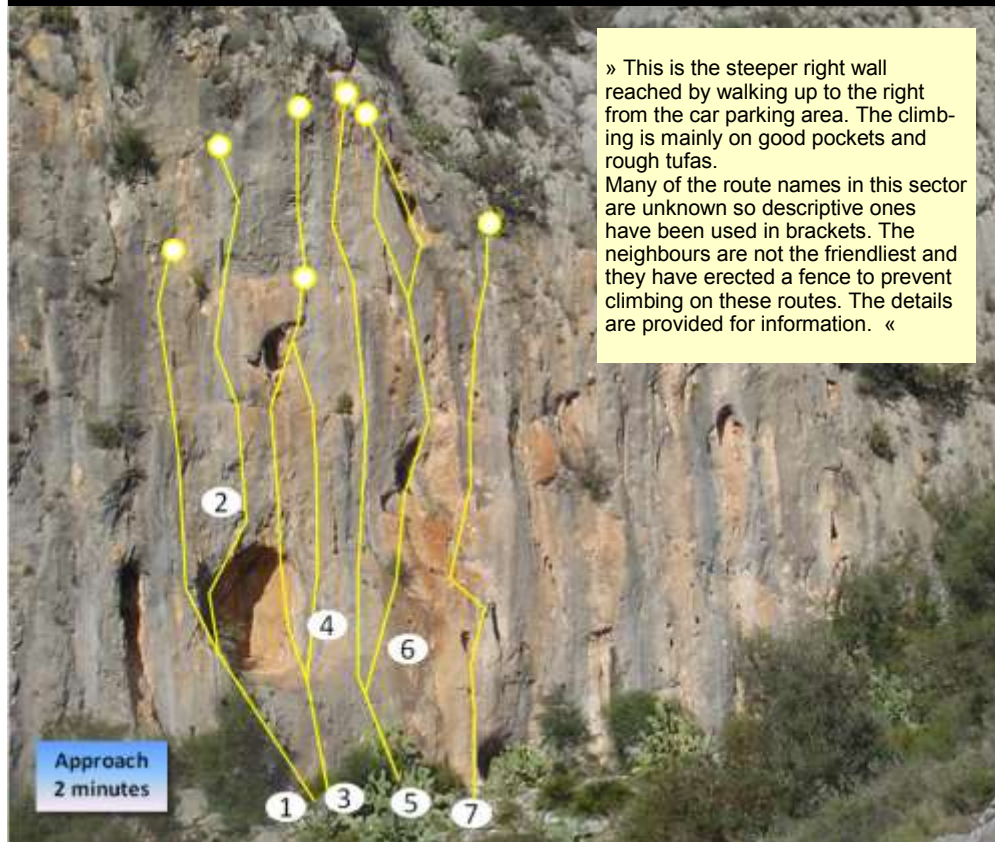
☐ **6. Isaac Junior**

25m. .

7a



Sector 5: Hyperbolic Area


☐ **1. A.A. Confidential**

7a

18m. Climb into the cave and climb the left edge to below a tufa. Up the tufa and wall above.
F.A. Alan Austin—27th December 2005

☐ **2. (Cave Route Left)**

7b+

28m. Climb into the cave and climb rightwards to reach some pockets. Gaining and passing the short groove is the crux but the middle and upper sections both provide interest.
F.A.

☐ **3. Hush Hush**

7b+

18m. Gain the cave and pull directly through the middle using the tufas to good holds. The final wall is the crux and should be taken on the left almost using holds on the previous route. From the hole continue to the belay on Cara Cortado.
F.A. Alan Austin—3rd January 2006.

☐ **4. Cara Cortado**.....

6c+ / 7b+



1. 20m. 6c+ Start below the cave. Climb into this and follow thin tufas up the right side and wall above. Pull left to the hole and exit right to a belay. Worth doing as a route on it's own.

2. Cara Dura 10m. 7b+ The chipped continuation up the steep headwall is much harder.

F.A. Blas 2005

☐ **5. (Cave Route)**.....

7b



30m. Gain the right side of the cave and continue up the wall just right of the black tufa to a brief rest before the upper wall. Fingery and sustained.

F.A.

☐ **6. (Escape Right)**.....

6b



32m. Climb into the right side of the cave. Move right and follow the groove line through a couple of bulges. Just before the crack finally ends move right into a cave and then up and back left again to the belay. Taken direct the route is a desperate 7b.

F.A.

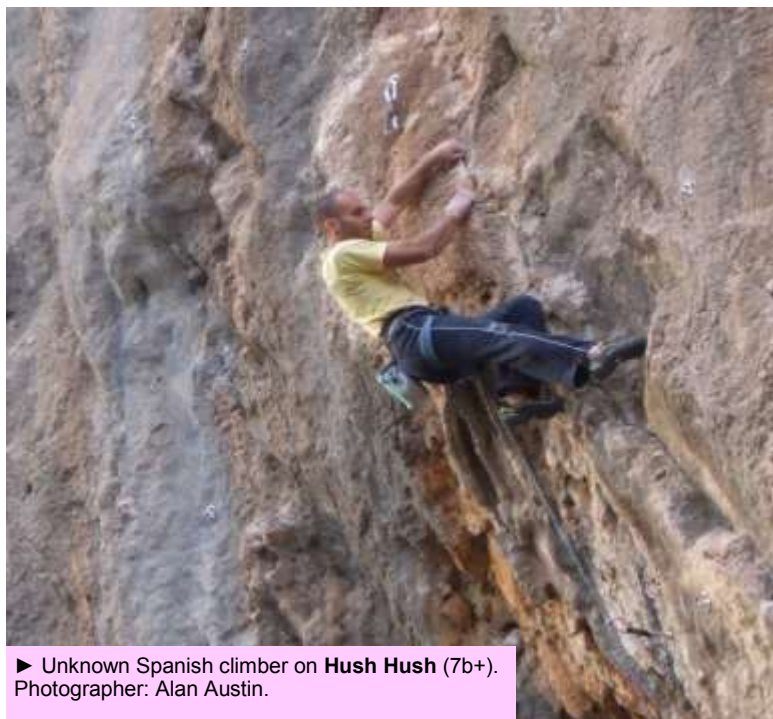
☐ **7. Waylander**

7a



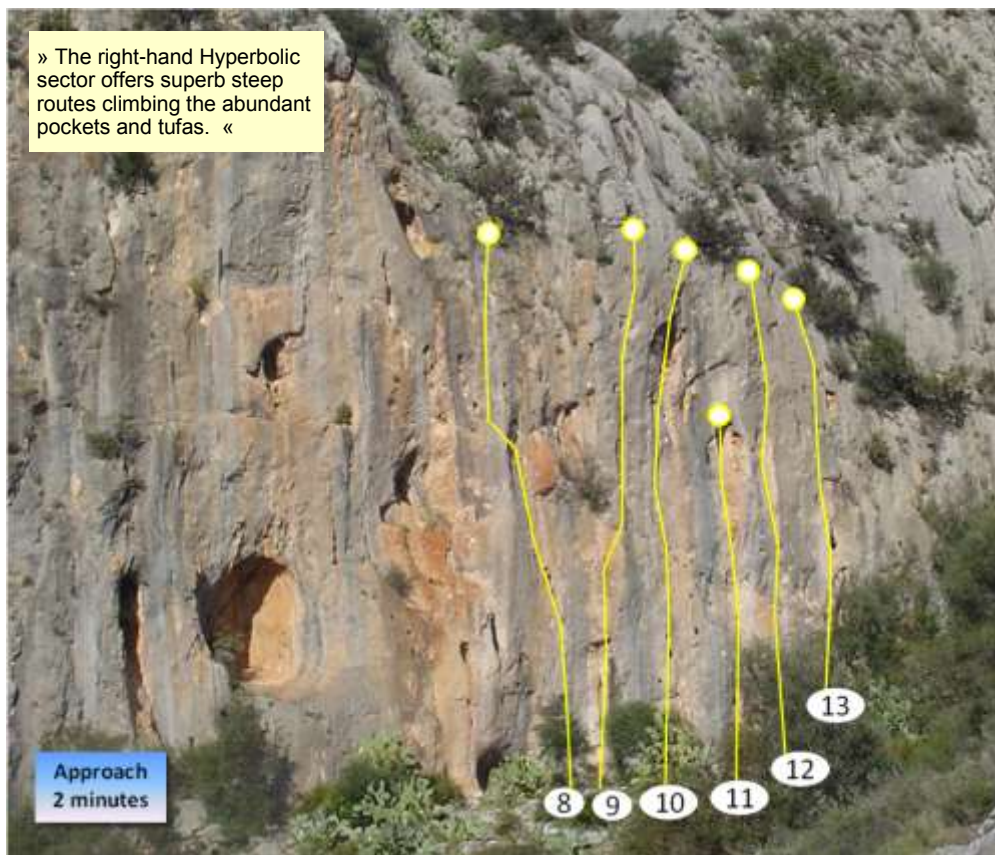
20m. Link the obvious pockets up the white wall. Move left from the last one (crux) and climb the wall and rib above with some excellent hidden pockets, moving right into Hyperbolic to finish at the same belay.

F.A. Richard Davies, Alan Austin— 31st December 2005



► Unknown Spanish climber on **Hush Hush** (7b+).
Photographer: Alan Austin.

» The right-hand Hyperbolic sector offers superb steep routes climbing the abundant pockets and tufas. «



! This section has been enclosed by a fence erected by the owner of the house closest to the face. This means it is no longer possible to climb here.!

☐ **8. Hyperbolic**

7a+

20m. The obvious line of pockets slanting up leftwards into a groove and finishing up the headwall. The route eases after a hard start. A tough on-sight for the grade, but it makes an easy redpoint when you know what to do.

F.A. Richard Davies, Alan Austin—23rd March 2005



☐ **9. (Supa Tufa)**

7b

22m. The stunning central line taking the obvious tufa in the middle of the wall. Excellent and sustained climbing and low in the grade. A 7a+ variation can be climbed on the right of the tufa and thus avoiding the crux section. Low in the grade.

F.A.



☐ **10. Bells of Parcent**.....

6b+

18m. Steep but plentiful pocket climbing up the bulges, then move up the shallow groove to gain the big hole higher up. Climb out of this and onto the headwall in an exposed position using excellent holds.
F.A. (extension) Richard Davies—31st December 2005

☐ **11. (Orange Pocket)**

6c

16m. Follow pockets up the leaning wall taking a line up the orange streak. It's steeper than it looks.
F.A.

☐ **12. Dead Funny**.....

7b+

20m. A squeezed in but independent line to the right up the steep rib. A single distinct hard move at mid height pushes the grade above that of it's neighbours..

F.A. Richard Davies, Alan Austin – 31st December 2005

☐ **13. (Elephants Trunk)**

7a

20m. Pull up the large tufa at the right most side of the wall. Follow the pockets to a blanker technical wall. Climb direct here or the easier option is to step right at 6c+.

! Currently the hangers are removed from the bolts on this route !

F.A.



► Unknown climber completing the hard start of **Hyperbolic** (7a+). Photo Richard Davies

Graded List	Route Name	
7b+	<input type="checkbox"/> Heaven Can't Wait <input type="checkbox"/> Hush Hush <input type="checkbox"/> Cave Route Left	<input type="checkbox"/> Dead Funny <input type="checkbox"/> Cara Dura pitch 2
7b	<input type="checkbox"/> Cave Route <input type="checkbox"/> Supa Tufa	
7a+	<input type="checkbox"/> Hyperbolic <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown pitch 1	
7a	<input type="checkbox"/> Busaba <input type="checkbox"/> A.A.Confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Waylander <input type="checkbox"/> Elephants Trunk
6c+	<input type="checkbox"/> Akram the Terrible <input type="checkbox"/> No Tocar Los Bloques <input type="checkbox"/> Cara Cortado <input type="checkbox"/> 40 Thieves	<input type="checkbox"/> Sudoku <input type="checkbox"/> Orange Pocket <input type="checkbox"/> Windle Poons
6c	<input type="checkbox"/> Cactus Climb <input type="checkbox"/> Diferente partes	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange Pocket <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Route
6b+	<input type="checkbox"/> Bells of Parcent <input type="checkbox"/> La Barra	<input type="checkbox"/> Yorkshire Lads
6b	<input type="checkbox"/> Corta y Dulce <input type="checkbox"/> Esolero	<input type="checkbox"/> De Tomerlero <input type="checkbox"/> Escape Right
6a+	<input type="checkbox"/> Elendigliches <input type="checkbox"/> Optas	
6a	<input type="checkbox"/> Stohlwitter <input type="checkbox"/> Lilac Wine	<input type="checkbox"/> Mono- Slabic <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgehog
5+	<input type="checkbox"/> Hogfather <input type="checkbox"/> Hola Patricia	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoggswatch
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Bull-Tucker Trial <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgehogg <input type="checkbox"/> Synnove	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep Pockets <input type="checkbox"/> Gillyeat's Hammer
4+	<input type="checkbox"/> Ainee <input type="checkbox"/> Tasha Mitica <input type="checkbox"/> Cornered	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginners Rib <input type="checkbox"/> Spare Rib <input type="checkbox"/> Ribeye



► Colin Richards on **Deep Pockets** (5).
Photographer: Pete Eccles

Rock-Topos climbing guides are intended to provide documented information, directions and route descriptions for the rock climbing at the cliff or area covered by the guide.

The guides are intended to supplement the local published guide books to these climbing areas. These guides will be updated to reflect the addition of new routes and to provide current access details.

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